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WHAT IF EVERY DAY WERE CHRISTMAS?

"Heaven defend us from such a misfortune!" you say. For Christmas is one of the most dreaded joys of life.

But this terror at the mention of Christmas is due to our having commercialized the day until it is a synonym for anxiety lest we give someone a present of less (or more) value than the present this someone has given us.

Yet in reality Christmas is a bit of prophetic idealism. It is a testimony to our persistent belief that our present economic order is not ideal. Even the most brutal industrialism cannot destroy this faith.

And our annual idealism is so simple: "It is more blessed to give than to bargain."

On Christmas Day all of our principles of political economy get thrown into the waste basket, and life bows before that banished master, generosity. Even the most commercialized of us want to make someone else happy. We actually are ready to give something to make this happiness secure!



Supposing this attitude of mind were with us the rest of the year.

How trade would flourish! For Christmas Day is a perennial denial of the notion that the world must be selfish in order to be prosperous. To make the giving spirit dominant in life would be to set all the manufacturies running overtime and shut up every bureau of charity.

Then, too, Christmas stands for joy because others are joyful. It is the day when we forget competition, class struggles, and all the other terrible things of our economic life. Indeed, we more than forget them; we defy them.

To find happiness in making others happy—did ever any Utopia dream of that? Yet that is what Christmas actually does for a scheming, quarrelsome, selfish, capitalistic world. Can God, then, really have abdicated?

Christmas is a proclamation that once a year the world may take Jesus seriously. He came to bring good tidings of love and to embody that gospel as a ruling force in men's lives. His mission has not been a failure, although none of us would say that it is yet a complete success.

Christmas Day comes nearer to being Christianized than any other day in the year. On that day we have a little better understanding of Jesus and his mission. The memory of the Christ Child helps us put into operation some of the ideals of the Christ Man. And thus for one blessed day we get an intimation of what Christ wanted us to make every day in the year.

So much for vision.



Now is it all impossible? Must we look wisely at one another and say that Christmas cannot come every day; that giving cannot replace getting; that success must always be purchased at the cost of someone's failure; that Jesus spoke too figuratively to be taken seriously; that mountain tops are fine for visions but poor places for crops—and the world needs crops?

Who is so blasphemous as to deny his heart's best hope? Why not have Christmas every day? Of course, not a mere holiday, but a day of joyous fraternity when we are less interested in getting than in giving pleasure; when men will not be forced to stifle their generous instincts in the interest of thrift; when we shall take Jesus Christ more seriously and find the evidence of the wisdom of our obedience in the joy of an entire world.

And we shall have it. For some day the kingdom of God will have come, and society will be with its Lord on the Mount of Transfiguration.

And every day will be Christmas then.